

Dear Energy and Technology Committee Member,

I understand HB 7251 is under discussion. I am very concerned to persuade you to extend net metering.

Here is why I am particularly concerned to extend net metering. I had experience in 2007 with the prior system, and it was neither fair nor reasonable. With the advent of net metering, the situation with Eversource was clear, the procedures reasonable, and the solar industry made significant though small gains. The bill last year had some admirable features, but it was very premature to terminate net metering to be replaced by a PURA process that will be questionable, confusing and probably set back the solarization of Connecticut for a year or far more. The entire point of net metering was to strengthen the industry while producing power when it is most needed. As I understand it, the aggregate solar production has replaced one or more power plants, which otherwise would have been needed. While the industry indeed grew, it certainly did not reach the point of transition to what has been proposed for new installations in 2020.

Clearly any progress we can make with solar and wind is all to the good, because of the life span of the nuclear plant feeding so much of Connecticut's needs will expire, and, as you know, there will remain the question of disposal of the nuclear waste.

I do know of this business as I am a small net exporter of solar power on an annual basis and charged with responsibility for 132 panels at the Meeting House of the Unitarian Society of Hartford.

In so far as possible, I hope you will restore the net metering arrangements for 2020 and beyond. Here are the items I believe would be helpful:

HB 7251 takes some small, helpful steps, which should be retained. Here's how you can take bolder steps and fix HB 7251 to ensure solar growth in Connecticut:

- RESIDENTIAL SOLAR: Connecticut's solar policies have been successful and should be continued while the value of solar analysis is done, in order to maintain the success of Connecticut's solar industry while we better evaluate new successor policies.
- COMMERCIAL SOLAR: Continue net metering and the LREC/ZREC program until the value of solar analysis is complete and successor programs can be reevaluated, and lift arbitrary caps on commercial solar investment that will restrict development.
- SHARED SOLAR: Expanding and improving the shared solar program authorized in 2018 is important to meeting Connecticut's climate mandates and making solar access more equitable. Connecticut stands to lose BIG if we don't fix this.

I am most appreciative of your consideration of this input, and thank you for your time and attention to my comments.

Have a productive discussion on this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Mr and Mrs David and Janice Newton

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